

The Mississippi River Valley along the border between Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin is like a fruit tree on the property line between neighbors. Each neighbor enjoys the blossoms in the spring and loves the fruit in the fall, but when it comes time to take care of it, each of the neighbors say, "I think it is their turn."

All three neighbors stock most of their interior rivers and lakes to a greater degree than the border river. The Mississippi is being treated differently because it is on the border. Many of the fish stocked into interior rivers and lakes in the three states, come from the Mississippi River. The Mighty Mississippi has a tremendous sport fishing tourism potential that is being overlooked. According to a study of economic impact of sport fishing by state for the year 2001, the economic impact for Illinois was 1.6 billion, for Iowa 741 million, and for Wisconsin 2.3 billion. What is the lost economic impact along the Mississippi between Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin and Clinton, Iowa, just because it is on the border and it's hard to determine who is responsible for its care? Could it be 100 million dollars?

The Mississippi Walleye Club Inc. is committed to protect and enhance the quality of the eco-system and fisheries of the Upper Mississippi River System. We understand the fragility of the eco-system and wish to work with the all to ensure that any stocking program merely supports/supplements the natural reproduction of the fishery. We believe that a natural healthy river with a quality fishery could have a substantial economic impact on the cities and towns along the river.

With these goals in mind, we would ask that you consider helping us, your cities, towns, and states with the following:

Please communicate with the US Fish & Wildlife and/or your elected officials. We need to ask the DNR's of Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois to work together with one another and the US Fish and Wildlife to:

- Share equally in an effort to stock walleye fingerlings of pools 10 through 13 to approximately 165,000 walleye fingerlings into each pool annually, as continues to take

place in Pools 9.

- Place a high priority to develop a Fish restoration plan for the McGregor through Savanna refuge Districts of the Upper Mississippi River by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife with the corporation of the three states involved.

The stocking programs are not a quick fix, but build it, and they will come.

The Mississippi Walleye Club., Inc. a non-profit 501 C3 non-profit organization, was founded in 1983 as a venue for its members to share their interest in the sport of walleye fishing and to help our communities.

Thanks you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Don Pape  
President  
Mississippi Walleye Club Inc.  
563-599-2855  
[dipape@mississippivalleye.com](mailto:dipape@mississippivalleye.com)  
[www.mississippivalleye.com](http://www.mississippivalleye.com)